

- a. preparing an ink that comprises at least one heat-activated printing additive that is solid at ambient temperature, wherein said at least one heat-activated printing additive has a melting point that is lower than a heat activation temperature, and at least one reactive dye which dissolves in said printing agent when said printing agent is a liquid, and at least one alkaline agent;
- b. supplying a digital printer with said ink and printing a portion of said ink onto a substrate to form an image by means of said portion of said ink;
- c. heat activating said ink by applying heat to said substrate at or above said heat activation temperature and melting said heat-activated printing additive, wherein said portion of said ink reacts with said substrate and bonds said image to said substrate.

2
11.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10, wherein said image is transferred to a second substrate when heat is applied to said substrate, and wherein said portion of said ink reacts with said second substrate and bonds said image to said second substrate.

10
12.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10, wherein said heat activation temperature is not lower than 70° C.

3
13.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 11, wherein said heat activation temperature is not lower than 70° C.

11
14. A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10,
wherein said ink is heat activated by applying steam.

4
15. A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 11,
wherein said ink is heat activated by applying steam.

12
16. A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10,
wherein said heat activated printing additive is urea.

5
17. A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 11,
wherein said heat activated printing additive is urea.

13
18. A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10,
wherein said ink further comprises a binder, and wherein said binder prevents
material reaction of said at least one reactive dye prior to heat activation of said
ink.

19. A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 11,
wherein said ink further comprises a binder, and wherein said binder prevents
material reaction of said at least one reactive dye prior to heat activation of said
ink.

14
20.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10, wherein said substrate comprises fibers.

7
21.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 11, wherein said second substrate comprises fibers.

5
22.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 10, wherein said ink further comprises thermally expandable microcapsules.

8
23.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 11, wherein said ink further comprises thermally expandable microcapsules.

14
24.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 22, wherein said thermally expandable microcapsules have a diameter of 20 microns or less.

9
25.

A method of printing an image using a digital printer as described in claim 23, wherein said thermally expandable microcapsules have a diameter of 20 microns or less.

Please delete claims 1-9. ✓

Respectfully submitted,



B. Craig Killough
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number 30,398
134 Meeting Street
P.O. Drawer H
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 577-7700

February 5, 2002